

Friday, April 11, 2008

NTSB Holds Public Hearing



On April 8 and 9, the NTSB held a public hearing as part of its ongoing investigation into the accident in which the 901-foot container ship M/V Cosco Busan spilled about 53,000 gallons of fuel oil after striking the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on November 7, 2007. Property damage and environmental clean-up costs are estimated to exceed \$60 million.

Chairman Mark V. Rosenker led the hearing. Joining him on the Board of Inquiry were Joseph Osterman (MD), Jack Spencer (MS), and hearing officer, Rob Henry (MS-10). The Technical Panel was comprised of IIC Tom Roth-Roffy (MS-10), Captain Rob Jones (MS-10), Dr. Barry Strauch (MS-20), Larry Bowling (MS-30), Robert Trainer (RPH-20), Crystal Thomas (RPH-20), and Paul Stancil (RPH-20). Media relations were handled by Peter Knudson (MD-3).

The meeting focused on the following issues: the Cosco Busan's Safety Management System and navigation equipment operability, accident notification and initial spill assessment, role of the Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Service, and pilotage oversight, which included questions related to the pilot's health and medical issues.

Witnesses included those from the U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game, San Francisco Bar Pilots Association, Fleet Management Limited (operators of the Cosco Busan), California Board of Pilot Commissioners, American Pilots Association, and Sperry Marine. The ship's pilot, John Cota, who faces federal charges, invoked his right against self-incrimination and declined to testify, as did the ship's master and several key members of the crew.

Information gathered at this hearing will be used to assist investigators in the on-going investigation, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day



Paula Sind-Prunier presents a check from the American Federation of Government Employees to Chairman Rosenker as a donation to the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Thursday, April 24th is "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," and NTSB will join thousands of employers across the nation by opening its doors to the next generation of workers. Designed to be more than a career day, the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® program (<http://www.daughtersandsonstowork.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=443>) goes beyond the average "shadow" an adult. The program exposes girls and boys to what a parent or mentor in their lives do during the work day, the value of their education and how it affects their future, and balancing life and career. Employees are welcome to invite not only their own children or grandchildren ages 6-17, but children they "mentor" or wish to sponsor for the day.

After being sworn in as an "Employee-for-the-Day," kids will begin the morning with a mock Board Meeting, as Chairman Mark Rosenker and the Board Members "deliberate" the probable cause of Lightning McQueen's terrible misfortune-- followed by a chance to "present their analysis" as a member of staff, or do their own deliberating as Board Member, on another "mishap." After pictures with the Board Members and special guests, the kids will take part in a variety of activities that showcase the work that the adults at NTSB do, learn more about transportation safety, and gain inspiration for exciting career directions in transportation, safety, public service, and related areas.

NTSB Delegation Travels to Asia



Chairman Rosenker and the NTSB delegation with executives from Toyota at the Higashi-Fuji Technical Center

Following his trip through Japan, Chairman Rosenker and Tom Doyle then traveled to Hong Kong. After planning and consultation with officials from the Department of State and the FAA, the gentlemen met with government leaders along with transportation and aviation officials. Accompanied by the US Consul General, Ms. Maggie Sorenson, the Chairman and Mr. Doyle paid a courtesy visit to Permanent Secretary of Transport, Francis Ho. They also met with the Director General of the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department, Mr. Norman Lo, and officials from the Marine Department, some of who are involved with the on-going investigation of Hong Kong registered ship, M/V *Cosco Busan*.



Chairman Rosenker with US Consul General, Maggie Sorenson, and officials from the Hong Kong CAD

NTSB Staff Attend Amtrak Familiarization Training



On March 7 and 11, members of the NTSB public affairs (Ted Lopatkiewicz, Keith Holloway, Terry Williams, Peter Knudson and Bridget Serchak) and safety recommendations (Elaine Weinstein, Pat Cariseo and Darren Broadwater) offices participated in familiarization training of the Amtrak Consolidated National Operations Center (CNOC) in Wilmington, Delaware. Amtrak offered a pre-boarding briefing at Washington Union Station by Amtrak's president, Alex Kummant, and other senior Amtrak officials, arranged for Acela locomotive head end rides for all participants, and provided a tour of the CNOC, which included a meeting with operations and Amtrak go-team members, as well as training on electric and diesel locomotive simulators. Amtrak's chief of communications, Cliff Black, and his public affairs team members made all of the arrangements and accompanied both NTSB groups.

